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Can't be a fox without the long ears [English] (/en/story/151263/can-t-be-a-fox-without-the-long-ears-english/)

Hazo (/en/u/hazo/)

Let's just say it's a story about a fox and a sparrow having a good time together.
Except the fox is actually a girl with a fluffy tail and the sparrow is smarter than her, and all they do is run away from their own mistakes.

Adventure (/en/discover/adventure/) All public.

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I'm Laeyd, the little one is Mattier.

The average running speed of an adult fox is that of around 65 km/h. Obviously, it can and will vary depending on the animal size, weight, and muscular disposition, but you get the point. One could also assume that this animal could even break this limit speed if it is, let's say, in a limit situation, like a run-or-die chase.

However, a sparrow top flying speed is about 46 km/h, and so the small bird should be in a clear disvantage if it tried to have a race against the fox.

So... if that's the case...

"W-WAIT FOR ME! WAIT FOR ME YOU STUPID BIRD! YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME BEHIND LIKE THIS!"

Why can't she follow his pace?

"I-I SWEAR I'LL RIP YOUR FEATHERS OFF ONE BY ONE AS SOON AS-!"

Hm.

Maybe, since she has two slender human legs and she's not the most athletic person around, she doesn't reach that average speed I mentioned before. Or is it that the bird is actually way faster than what one could expect?

Anyway, the fact is that she's doing her best to run as fast as she can, but her partner is way, way ahead of her, and he doesn't even look that tired. Not that she knows how a tired sparrow looks, though.

But why is she running, to begin with?

Is she running away from something or someone? She does look a bit desperate, and there's definitely not a smile on her face. Her usually disheveled blonde hair looks even more of a mess, her lips are dry,

there's sweat all over her skin and her eyes- I mean, her only eye wanders all around the alley looking for an alternative escape route.

"Mattier! Help me here, you bastard!"

And the bird suddendly turns on a corner twenty meters ahead of her. Chirping soundly as if he is making fun of her.

"WHY DO YOU-?!"

She turned on the same corner, with the whole intention of grabbing that little bag of feathers and break his neck, but found herself on a dead end.

"B-betrayal!"

"Chirp!"

But the small sparrow was right there! Waiting atop a trash can and of course she

didn't even doubt opening the can and jumping inside!

"Come on, Mattier! Come in!"

But he doesn't. The bird... the bird salutes her and flies away...

"Mattier..."

She hid properly, covering herself with the lid of the can, just leaving enough space to peek outside. She saw Mattier turning the corner again at max speed... and seconds after, he saw a really large group of men running behind him. Those looked like dangerous men. Some of them were even carrying clubs and poles. Some looked like regular humans, others had horns, others had weird ears... one had scales!

"Uh... that was a bad move, huh..."

And she closes the lid, hugging her own

knees inside the can.

"And it stinks in here... there are remains of fruit, meat, plastic bags and my butt is wet with something I really doubt is just clean water. I should never had come to this town! Ah... so-so-something is crawling on my tail! Please be not fleas again, damn it..."

Around thirty minutes passed.

Clank!

"Hm...?"

Something hits the lid, so she lifts it and looks outside... and there is the little bird. Looking as dirty as her, but way less boomed.

"Ma-Mattier! You lost them all?"

"Chirp!"

"That's my partner! I didn't doubt you even for a second!"

But she did.

"Ah... Mattier... I must apologize. That was a hell of a bad idea. To be fair, I couldn't have expected all of them to be part of the same guild. And hell if I could have known there are only two guilds in this town and they are in a never-ending cold war"

"Chirp"

"How long has it been since we came here, again?"

"Chirp, chirp"

"Yeah, two days. Damn it, just two days and I already made half of the town hate me! That has to be a new personal record!"

"Chirp..."

"Hm... yes... that time..."

"Chirp, chirp"

"You mean that time with the mice guys? That wasn't my fault at all!"

"..."

"H-how would I have known they hated foxes..."

Says our fox-tailed heroin as she jumps outside the can.

She looks terrible, dirty way beyond what a normal hotel could accept for a guest to come in. She takes off her brown hat, revealing all of that blonde hair she hasn't combed in her whole life. And so, to complement that -now stinky- cute hairy tail of a fox, she carries on her head... just regular human ears.

The girl claps his clothes all around so the most dirty falls off her jacket and pants, and when she begins doing the same with her tail-

"Chirp!"

The little bird jumps back.

"It doesn't stink that much! Besides, it was your fault! You picked the hiding

place!"

When she considers she's 'clean enough' she puts on the hat again takes out her phone from her pocket. She frowns... and she puts it away, looking at the sparrow.

"I don't know, Mattier. We might be safe for now, but those guys are not going to forget about us that quickly. And I doubt just giving them their stuff back is going to solve anything. Did you see how they threw those spears? They were aiming at my tail!"

"Chirp"

"Legs? Yes, that could be too. And now it's getting late... I seriously hope they don't throw me out of the hotel because of how bad I look"

. . .

"Re-rejected?"

"Chirp"

"B-but my face is clean! A-and my clothes ain't that much stained and- yes, my tail stinks but I can solve that with a simple bath and-!"

"Miss, please let me finish. We are the only hotel in the neutral zone of the town, and as such we cannot allow ourselves to host a-"

"No!"

"We cannot allow ourselves to host a person who threatened against any of the two guilds ruling the town. Be it the Winders or the Stompers, our pact is that of-"

She slammed both her hands on the table!

"YOU HAVE TO BE KIDDING ME! They snitched?!"

"M-miss-"

"AND I ALREADY PAID!"

Her eyes s- her only eye, the left one, is

on fire! And the small, thin marks on her cheeks look like they could snap off at any moment! Her tail waves violently from side to side! The fox is angry!

"I-it says here on the directives that-"

"And who the crap reads the directives and rules, eh?! Of course I don't!"

"M-miss, that's not our-!"

"Is it more money that you want?! Because I have it! How much? Two gold coins?! Three gold coins?! I offer you up to four gold coins!"

"F-F-FOUR GOLD C- N-No! E-even so, that's not up to me to-!"

"Chirp!"

The only reasoning being in the whole hotel hall, Mattier, flew and stood up firmly between the scared-to-death bald receptionist and the crazy fox that was about to eat him!

"Chirp! Chirp, chirp, chirp!"

"G-guh... ah, damn it... you might be right..."

"Chirp..."

"Y-yeah..."

Why does she look so shy out of the blue? Why is she backing up, avoiding the man's sight? Why is she blushing?!

"So... ah... I-I leave..."

They leave the hotel and now they are back on the streets. The fox breathes deeply... and releases. And again, and again... and again...

"Ah~ I need to control myself a tad better"

"Chirp..."

"I know, I know. I'm usually way more tranquil, cold, relaxed... but whenever I feel scammed like that, or insulted...! They practically stole me, you know?! I had paid for a full week! I wouldn't have expected

that..."

"..."

"And... those were the Stompers, right? The ones I angered, I mean... If we came here running away from them from the east, then the Winders must rule the west side of the town"

There's close to zero people outside. In front of the big hotel there's a small round plaza with a fountain. Some shops, restaurants, an abandoned house, a bar or two and many parked cars. The town must be somewhat safe if they don't mind their vehicles sleeping outside. The only person to be seen is an old deer lady sweeping the front of her modest restaurant. And it's already night...

"Ah... I want to take a shower..."

"Chirp"

"I know... but I don't really want to become friends with those weirdos either. I don't even know who are the good and bad guys here. I might end up siding with

some poor folks that don't even have running hot water. Can you imagine that? I'm not taking a cold shower on winter; not again, Mattier"

"Chirp?"

"Impossible. I don't have the means nor I'm skilled enough to spy on the Winders and determine if they are worthy of joining them or not. I would get beaten up before I could learn their leader's name!"

"Chirp"

"Are you even listening to your own words, Mattier? I had to run away from those men before because I CANNOT defend myself! I'm not a fighter, and you know it, I'm just an aimless traveler looking for fun things to do! Trying to make them solve their differences? Not my problem, not at all!"

"Chirp..."

"Well, then you should be the one knocking on those violent apes' doors and tell them to-!"

"Chirp"

The sparrow makes a silent noise, and the fox shuts up right away. Then she looks to her side, to the other side of the street and notices the old lady is staring at her with a strange look. Not to be surprised, honestly. She does look a bit on the crazy side, talking with a bird and all that. Hopefully, she'll know how not to look for any more problems.

"... What? Do I owe you something, horned woman?"

She just doesn't learn.

These are the moments when the sparrow regrets having such an airhead as a companion.

No, that's wrong.

If one were to be completely fair, one should make clear that this fox girl is everything but an airhead. She's really smart! Quick on maths, agile on logic, has a good memory... if only she had a bit more sense of danger and wasn't so easily

blinded by her own interests...

Well, that and her horrible manners and stupidly big ego.

But she's not a bad person, really! Even if she scams other people and takes full advantage of...

...

Ah... it might look like I'm trying too hard to convince you she's not a completely despicable person. You know what? Watch and decide for yourself.

"No, you don't owe me anything, vixen"

The old lady speaks in a gentle tone, but her choice of words is a bit...

"V-vixen?!"

"Ch-chirp..."

"Hm... yes, I might be wrong..."

The deer woman has long hair and her whole face is just a single wrinkle, and even her clothes look like those of a classic

old lady. And she gets closer, grabbing her chin and looking at our fox up and down.

But what does she see?

A short teen with a beautiful yellow hair that's sadly so mistreated, the brown hat, the noticeble white bandages covering 1/4 of the girl's face all over her right eye, the thin marks on her cheeks, the maybe-too-big jacket, the maybe-too-big pants that are fit on the end by her heavy boots, and that maybe-too-small backpack... and also the sparrow, the sparrow has a VERY small backpag that heavens know what might contain inside. Then the fluffy yet now dirty tail...

Yes, if the fox girl weren't so careless about her appearence, she would be a real cutie.

"You do have a vixen's tail. But up there... you have no vixen's ears"

That's a sensible matter.

"Th-that's genetics, okay? I'm already

too self-conscious about it for an old hag to- and stop calling me vixen! It sounds horrible!"

"Hehehe, I'm sorry, youngling"

"What were you looking at, anyway? Just internally making fun of an earless fox?"

"No, no. But I couldn't help myself from listening to your conversation with this cute little bird"

"Chirp!"

Why does the sparrow puffs up so happily at those words? Well, probably because he never receives any kind compliments coming from the fox.

"So you use those long ears of yours to eavesdrop?"

"Yes"

"And you admit it?!"

"I understand that you are not from this town and because of that you don't know how to properly live a tranquil life here, fox girl. And I know that because I was

also a traveler many, many years ago"

"Many, many years..."

"And I also had my good share of bloody battles against both the Winders and the Stompers"

"Bloody-?"

"Chirp..."

"And even after all those decades, I still have my house and my shop, because those vandals learned I'm not a deer you can mess with!"

"So your point is...?"

"Teach them a lessson! They are just a bunch of armed cowards that nowdays can't even speak to me withtout getting all worked up! Cowards! Cowards!! I only needed this same broom and a shovel to-"

They can only watch as the deer goes on a rampage about how much she hates those guilds. They, very quietly and slowly, and step away from her...

"Mattier... I think this hag is even

crazier than I am..."

"Chirp..."

"No, I don't get her intentions yet..."

"Ah... those animals... anyway, one-eyed fox..."

"O-one-eyed?!"

"Does that bother you too?"

"Anyone would get mad if you used their defects as if they were names for them!"

"But you haven't told me your name yet, so-"

"Laeyd! Alright?! I'm Laeyd, the little one is Mattier!"

"Good, good. Laeyd it is, then. And your last name?"

"Sensible topic"

"Hm?"

The old deer tilts her head to a side.

"How could your last name be a sensible topic?"

"That's also a sensible topic"

"You don't like your parents?"

"Could you please stop stepping on mines?!"

"Ah- hahaha~ I'm sorry, Laeyd. I just love beating around the bush, don't mind me. My name is Urdizina, and I'm nothing but a humble worker. Come with me, I have an empty room for you to sleep the night"

"W-wha..."

"I told you, didn't I? I know your situation, and it makes me come up with some really old memories. Come, come, don't be shy"

The fox and the sparrow looked at each other, and the one that stepped ahead and went right behind the deer lady walking back to her house was Mattier.

Laeyd lets out a small sigh...

"You were so easily bought with some nice words, Mattier...?"

"Come with us, young Laeyd! I'll get ready a nice, hot bath for you!"

"A-a hot bath?!"

Finally, a bright smile takes over her face and she skips behind the deer lady.

See? A despicable person wouldn't be able to smile like that!

...

Who am I trying to deceive, she's terrible.

I'll tell you what comes after some other time.

July 11, 2021, 5:08 p.m. 14 comments

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Patricia Hernandez @sandramahler_ (/en/u/sandramahler_/)

Super fun and interesting, loved it!

Reply comment January 19, 2023, 23:32 (/en/dashboard/story/comment/324274/vote/up/)

Hazo @hazo (/en/u/hazo/)

Thank you for giving it a try!

January 19, 2023, 23:36 (/en/dashboard/story/comment/324277/vote/up/)

E A **El Assry Lahoucine** @el-assry-lahoucine- (/en/u/el-assry-lahoucine-/)

A lot of aventure.

Reply comment August 22, 2022, 17:30 (/en/dashboard/story/comment/278552/vote/up/)

Fatima Said @blossoms (/en/u/blossoms/)

Hey, I read the chapter some weeks ago and I feel in love with it... I really can't wait for the next chapters. When is it gonna come out?

Reply comment January 16, 2022, 22:16 (/en/dashboard/story/comment/231645/vote/up/)

Hazo @hazo (/en/u/hazo/)

Hello! I'm really happy you like it that much, it means a lot to me <3
I've been a bit busy with other projects lately, but I'll come back to this one as soon as possible! Probably this same week.

January 16, 2022, 23:15 (/en/dashboard/story/comment/231650/vote/up/)

Fatima Said @blossoms (/en/u/blossoms/)

Great! I'll be waiting 😁❤

January 17, 2022, 08:04 ♡ (/en/dashboard/story/comment/231740/vote/up/)

Fatima Said @blossoms (/en/u/blossoms/)

Amazing!!!!!😃😃😃😃😃 wow wow wow
It truly is awesome! I can't wait for the next chapter!

Reply comment December 26, 2021, 10:42 ♡ (/en/dashboard/story/comment/227378/vote/up/)

Hazo @hazo (/en/u/hazo/)

Thanks you so much and I'm happy you liked it!!

December 28, 2021, 23:47 ♡ (/en/dashboard/story/comment/227924/vote/up/)

Mervin Spidle @mervin-spidle1632352337 (/en/u/mervin-spidle1632352337/)

Not bad why did you pick sparrow and fox?

Reply comment December 19, 2021, 02:09 (/en/dashboard/story/comment/225884/vote/up/)

Hazo @hazo (/en/u/hazo/)

Hi! I liked this idea of a couple, sounded fun.

December 28, 2021, 23:47 (/en/dashboard/story/comment/227923/vote/up/)

Mervin Spidle @mervin-spidle1632352337 (/en/u/mervin-spidle1632352337/)

Ok that's cool, are you going to write another book?

January 02, 2022, 02:17 (/en/dashboard/story/comment/228582/vote/up/)

Hazo @hazo (/en/u/hazo/)

I am currently working in a long book, although only the first chapters have been translated, and I haave many other ideas, yes.

January 08, 2022, 05:49 (/en/dashboard/story/comment/230015/vote/up/)

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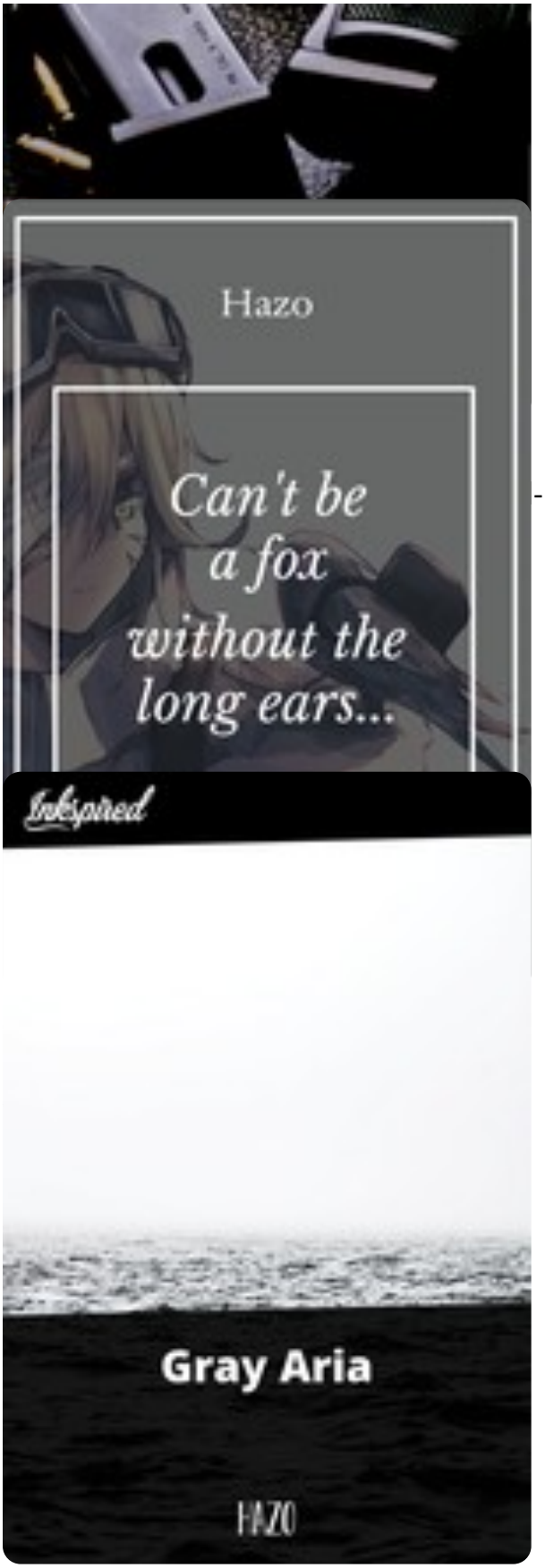

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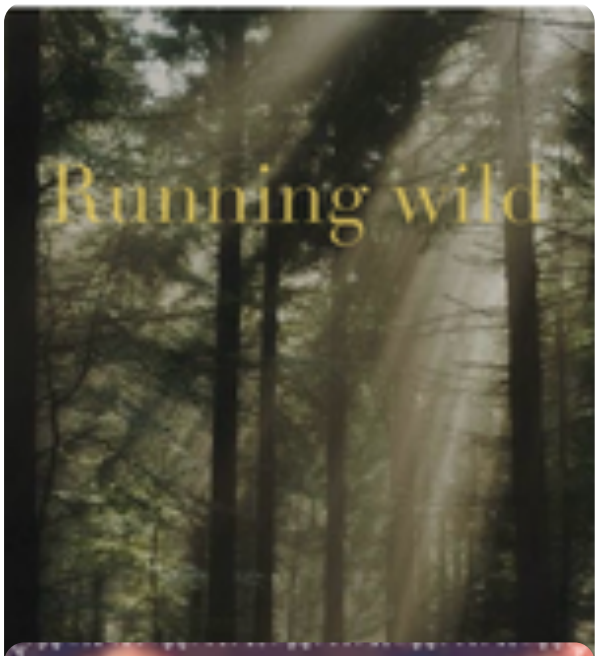

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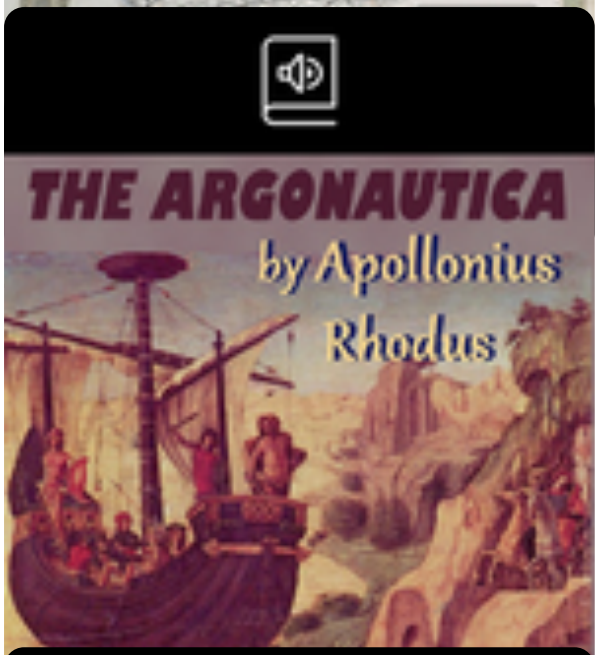
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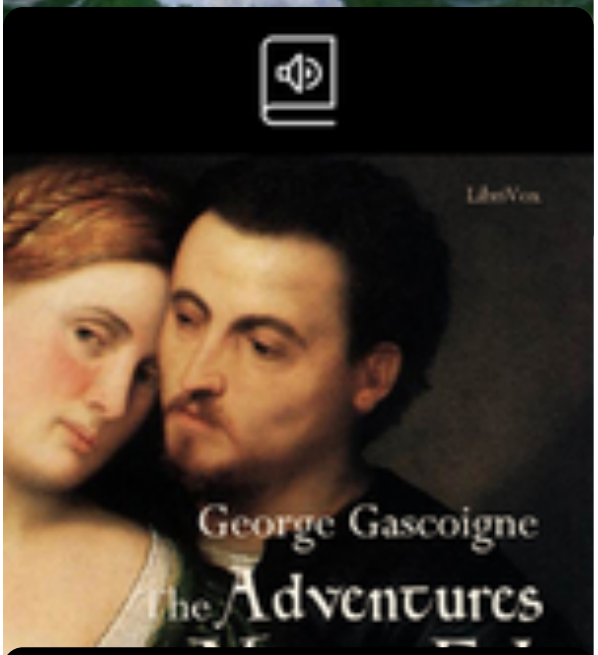
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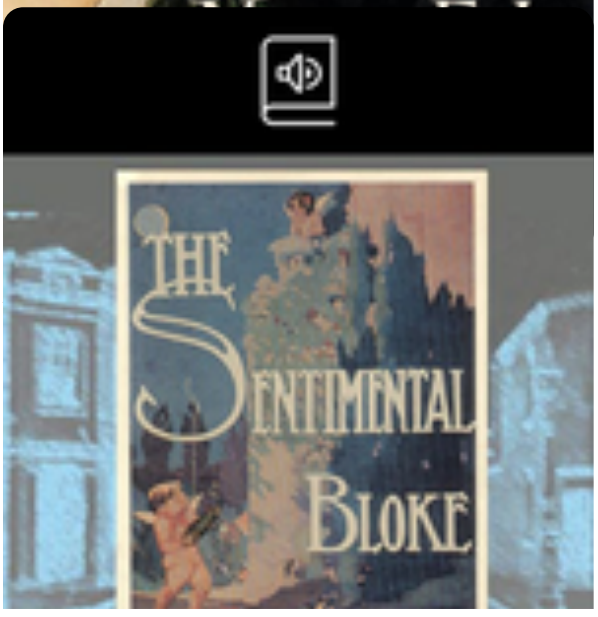
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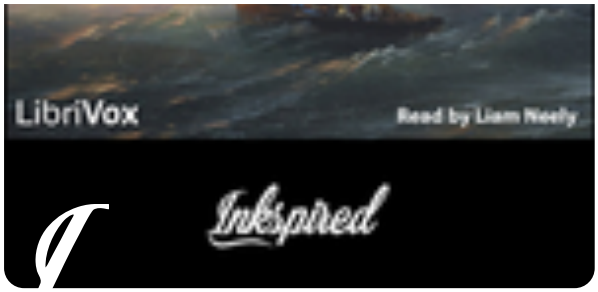

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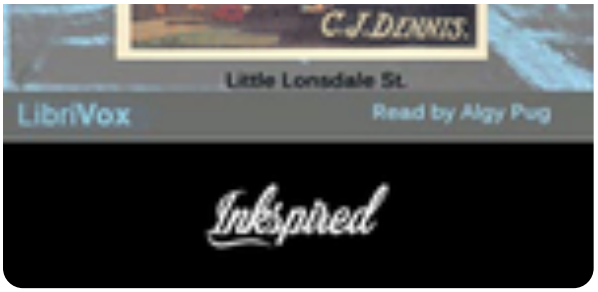

Songs of a Sentimental Bloke (/en/story/721912/songs-of-a-sentimental-bloke/)

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< I'm your girl, just trust me!

"That was refreshing."

"Chirp."

"Yes, that too."

"Chirp?"

"Perhaps, we still have to decide what are we going to do first".

"Chirp..."

"For what? What good would that do us?"

"..."

"I figured"

The fox is laying down on a single bed. The room where she is is rather... empty. Nothing but the bed and a small table, and the closed window that allows the moon to illuminate both of them, of course. The bird is standing on top of her chest, as she plays with his beak with a single finger; he doesn't mind.

"All I want to do is to get the hell outta here before I get in more trouble. We'll do that tomorrow morning"

Her hair looks clean and limp, for once. She had dinner with the old deer and then a good bath. Mattier also looks all clean, and way cuter than her.

"Chirp, chirp chirp. Chirp chirp, chirp chirp chirp."

"... go on."

"Chirp chirp chirp, chirrrip, chirp."

"So... you say it would help us in the end?"

"Chirp."

"But we're not merchants, Mattier. I don't see what benefit would we..."

"Chirp chirp!"

"Ah.... g-guess so... that's really dirty, you know? We're not really desperate for money, and I can always pester my parents for-"

"Chirp."

"Y-yeah it's not like they give me enough to live but still."

"Chirp!"

"A-alright, alright, I get it! Geez..."

Could it be... the bird is actually greedy? Or is it she the one who is okay with having enough for a hot bath everyday?

Either way, what just happened is that the bird told the fox his idea. A complicated scheme indeed, and it is certainly dangerous, but he doesn't seem to mind that at all.

"It's easy to come to such ideas when you can easily fly away, huh..."

"Chirp~"

"So... we either make them amend their ways or decimate each other. The later would be really complicated and torublesome, but the former seems really difficult..."

The fox sits on the bed, and the bird swiftly jumps down her chest. Then she crosses her legs, brings her tail over them and the bird instantly jumps on top of that fluffy tail.

"During dinner... the deer said this war has started so many years ago nobody really rememebrs the reason anymore, but I highly doubt it's like that; nobody fights

without a motive. Hm... maybe the regular thugs don't know a thing, but I'm sure their leaders or so must have it clear."

"Chirp."

"Yes, that too."

"Chirp..."

"Say, Mattier..."

"Chirp?"

The fox girl smiles down at the sparrow, and then looks at the window. The moon looks so pretty...

"I've been thinking about what you said the other day. You know, when I spend the night in such a tranquil room like this, in a town where a noise can barely be heard at night... I think stop travelling doesn't sound so bad..."

"Chirp."

"But..."

"Chirp..."

"Yeah. I can't leave it just yet. There are

places I want to be, there are things I want to see... there are people I want to... people I have to meet."

"Chirp. Chirp, chirp."

"Haha, don't be so mean. I'm not sad, just a bit nostalgic."

The fox strokes the bird's head with just a finger, and then she yawns.

"Ah~ well, it's almost midnight by now, Mattier. Let me catch some z's. Tomorrow I'll be... thinking of a way to solve the mess that this place is..."

The sparrow looks happy. Yes, they might insult each other all the time, but they are friends in the end. Really, really good friends. One could easily say, one could not live without the other at this point. He jumps of her tail to the table, and right there sits down, closing his eyes.

"... hehe"

The girl giggles, checks on her phone one last time and yawns again, laying down with a hopeful yet tired smile, wishing for the best to meet their fate the next day.

. . .

"WHAT THE HELL IS THAT NOISE?!"

Both the fox and the sparrow are sticking their noses... her nose and his beak, against the glass of the window as the thunderous roar of drums, trumpets and various chord instruments seemingly fill the whole town. They can only see a little bit of what's going on outside, there are some big men and some wild-looking women playing music. No, playing 'music', because they are not harmonizing at all!

"W-what are they doing?!"

"Good morning, Laeyd."

As she turns around, she finds the deer lady on the door frame, smiling at her with pure peacefulness in her face.

"H-how is this a good morning?! What are those brutes doing?!"

"The weekly music contest, of course."

"W-weekly...?"

"Yes. From that window you could only see the Stompers, but at the other side of the park you could also see the Winders, doing exactly the same. They found this competition as a way to avoid killing each others all the time. So they train and-"

"Train?! They train for this?! God, I'm glad I don't have animal ears..."

"Well they are all brainless brutes, you can't expect good sound coming from them. But as long as there is less violence around..."

And the noise stops. Then a lot of yelling, as if the guilds were screaming at

each other things like 'our performance was better!' or 'what you did now just sucked!'. And then silence...

"Man, this is terrible and... and..."

And the fox smiles.

"... I won't have breakfast, Urdi... Urzi... Urt..."

"Chirp."

"Yes, Urdizina. I will leave right away and I'll probably come back at night. Mattier and I have some things to do in town today."

"Chirp?"

"Yes, yes we do."

"Huh... just make sure you don't go around picking trouble, Layed. Otherwise, I will not have more option than kicking you out. This is still a neutral zone."

"I know, I know, Don't ya worry, deer, I'll fix this town's problems in two days!"

"Hm?"

"Chirp..."

"Let's go, Mattier."

She picks up her bag, the bird jumps on her shoulder and they head out, with the confused look of the deer lady on their backs.

"Now, now. Yesterday we ran away from... the Stompers, at the east, those are the ones we're gonna meet first, Mattier. We have to solve things with them."

"Chirp?"

"Yes, it can't be too difficult. They didn't seem to be bothered by the scam, but mostly about the things I said. That can quickly be talked away with an apology, right? I've got this covered, friend. You just trust me."

"Chirp..."

. . .

This is some heavily overused cliché, ain't it? Can't help it, don't blame me; I'm just the narrator, everything that's happening is on the fox. And even if such a development was to be expected, no one could have stopped her from ending up like this.

"I'll find a way to get us outta this one, Mattier."

"..."

The fox is tied to a wooden chair. Her legs, her torso, her tail and her arms, and she ferociously looks at the big men arguing at the other side of the abandoned factory she's in. Ah, the sparrow is free, though, just standing on top of her head with a... somewhat... tired look.

"Now then, vixen."

And here comes one of the men, and Laeyd looks up at him, blinking innocently. He has long and pointy ears,

like a...

"An elf?"

"Yes, I am an elf. Surprised?"

"Well, we are not in elves' territory, so..."

"I just don't really get along with my peers, don't sweat the details."

It's a young man. Although quite muscular and tall, his hair is brownish and short, and there's a noticeable scar on his chin. And he's holding a bat against his shoulder.

"Little girl, I'm going to be honest with you. I don't like the idea of beating a girl, so let's solve this talking."

"Sweet! Just as a I wanted! S-see, Mattier?"

The elf notices the bird, but he doesn't care about him.

"Are you a sort of spy from the

Winders? I've never seen you before in this town, so you have to be an outsider."

"Uh- yes, I am, sir. I-I mean I'm an outsider! Not a spy. I'm just a traveler, nothing else!"

"And a scammer too. You destroyed a friend of mine playing cards, but..."

"Ah- haha~ well, that is..."

"I don't mind that, life out there can be pretty harsh so I'm not going to judge you. However, you did say some ugly stuff back then when you were discovered..."

"That was- that just because-"

"You know, stuff like... 'So what if you found out about the trick? What you gonna do? Call your friends? Your guild? I bet they are all a bunch of assholes like you! I'll beat the crap out of them all!'"

"..."

"Yes, stuff like that"

"I-I could have never known you were all part of the same guild!"

"What did you expect to happen, fox? You really think you could have handled by

yourself even two of my men?"

"N-no..."

"Then why provoking in the first place?"

"... I'm good at running away."

The elf sighs. He's not even mad, just tired and disappointed.

"Release her, this is pointless."

And, almost as if it was choreographed, all the other men sigh at the same time.

The fox is untied, free to go if she desires so, the elf is not even looking towards her anymore and seems to be dozing off with another member.

"How ungentle. My wrists..."

Laeyd frowns, rubbing the mark left on her skin by the ropes. But no time to lose, the bird looks at her and they both nod at each other.

"Yes, this is my chance."

"Chirp."

"Hey, elf."

The seemingly highest in rank among the men, the elf, straightens up slowly.

"My name is Ponit."

"Alright, Ponit. I want to talk to you and your men. Where can I meet your guild boss?"

"Right here."

Says the elf, winking at pointing at his chest with a thumb. The fox smiles excitedly.

"Great! I figured you would be some big fish. Now, as-"

"I'm not the boss."

"... but you..."

"Yes, the boss is right here, but I'm not him."

". . ."

Laeyd's face grows slightly worried. She turns her head to face Mattier, and the bird shrugs. 'That bird just shurgged?', 'Yeah, I think it did...' can be heard coming from the lesser men. Awkwardly, Laeyd scratches the back of her head.

"Ah... well... it's not my first time dealing with crazy people so-"

"Hey, boss. This chick wants to see you."

"Yes, yes, I'm listening..."

An extremely deep voice resonates from inside the chest pocket of the elf, and, before the amazed eyes of the bird and the fox, a tiny, comically well-dressed in a suit mouse jumps out to the elf's shoulder.

"What are you looking me for, young ones?"

"... why are-"

"Chirp!"

As if guessing what the fox is about to say, the bird smacks her on the cheek.

"Ah- oh, right! My name is Laeyd, and this guy here is Mattier! I needed to talk to you about the horribly ear-shattering spectacle you held this morning!"

"..."

As usual, her choice of words is terrible, and the air gets tense all of a sudden.

"Oh... what is it about this... spectacle? Do you care, foreigner?"

"Y-yeah! I cannot allow such terrible insult to good music to be uttered! I am here to help you!"

"What makes you think we need your help?"

"I am not a professional, but I do know a thing or two about music. You want to step on the Winders, right? Then I'm your girl, just trust me!"

Now it is the elf and the mouse the ones staring at each other. And they stay like that for a long time, one would think they are having a quiet conversation. In the end, the elf smiles as if saying 'we've got nothing to lose', and the mouse nods.

"Fine, Laeyd, we'll take on your offer. What do you want in return?"

"Hehehe! Don't you worry, I'll get my benefits too. Right, now I just want your name."

The elf quickly intervenes.

"Boss never tells his name to anyone who's not-"

"Tall. That's my name."

"B-boss..."

"You don't get it, Ponit. If this girl can really manage to make our guys sound good, then we will finally stomp on the

Winders once and for all. I am not reserving anything here."

"Alright! Tall, got it. I, Laeyd, give you my word that your guys are going to make the best music this lame town has seen!"

Laeyd reunited all of the Stompers that owned an instrument and lined them up according to their classification. She took notes of their main problems, quickly thought of an easy yet pleasant melody and began writing it down. All for herself, of course, the men didn't know how to read music sheets. And once it was all settled down on paper, she just began bossing them around, telling them what to do at exactly what time.

"Good, good! You're not half bad, you guys already know how the instrument works, you just needed some guidance... well, the one-eyed fox is right here for you!"

Didn't she hate being adressed like that?

Dumb fox.

The sparrow can only watch, he doesn't know about music either.

Just an hour and a half was needed for her to make the Stompers, who also looked really excited about musically surpassing their rival guild, play her melody nicely enough. Not perfectly, but good enough to call it music.

She puffs proudly.

She looks way better when she uses her energy for something productive instead of scamming people.

. . .

"That went way better than expected, don't you think?"

"Chirp."

"Yes, yes, it was scary at first but... people can get along just well if they talk everything through! Every single day that goes by only proves my point further."

"Chirp chirp, chirp?"

"Oh, haven't I? Sorry, sorry, I just thought it was such a good plan that I forgot to tell you about it."

"Chirp..."

"Don't make that face, it wasn't on purpose! Haha~"

Walking back to the neutral zone, with the bird on her shoulder and a paper bag full of candies that the Stompers gave her, she explains to him her plan. Mumbling, of course, such things are not to be told in a loud voice. In-between sentences, she giggles and eats candy; her tail wiggling from one side to the other, until they are finally in the central plaza.

"What do you think?"

"CHIRP!"

"Haha! Told you it was good! It's going to be... complicated to set up the scenario, but I think I can pull it off."

"Chirp?"

"Yes, but I'll figure that out later. Right

now... we have to go meet the Winders."

And they gaze to the west side of this small town. Confidently, yet unsure about how things will work out for them.

If something can be said about our dear fox, is that she can clearly put herself into some hard work, and that she's skillful and even smart at times, she just doesn't care enough.

...

No, it's not me trying to defend her again. I'm just the narrator, nothing else.

Jan. 28, 2022, 11:15 a.m. 3 comments

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Fatima Said @blossoms (/en/u/blossoms/)

Hey! It's me again! I was just reading the two chapters over again😅 and I just can't stop being amazed! Even if not so many people write their comments below, I'm sure they all enjoy not less than I do. I wanted to ask if you perhaps are done soon? It's not that I want to rush you, it's rather that I just can't wait!😁
Sorry for my curiosity, but can I know how old you are?
OMG, I just can't stop praising you for putting such a beautiful piece of art in the world and that I'm allowed to read it!!!😫 This book is the best one I've ever read and I wish there would exist an anime by your story too. This is just soooooooooooooo amazing!!! Keep going!❤❤❤

Reply · on 2021, 1 1 03 (/en/dashboard/story/comment/244441/vote/up/)

Fatima Said @blossoms (/en/u/blossoms/)

This really is beginning to be my favorite book🥰!!! It's just soo relaxing and amusing, funny and cool, surprising and unexpected, shocking and yet still obviously. It's just soooo amazing!😍😍😍😍😍
I really am looking forward to the next chapters!! Oh... already thinking about the time I have to wait for the next chapter makes me sad😩, but don't forget one thing: Never listen to haters or to disbelievers. Just keep going and don't change 💯 ✨
I believe in you and really look up to you!😁 I'm only 14 years old and I began writing a book about a year ago. And you are the one person to which I'm looking up to! I'm just so amazed! What you're writing is full of talent and effort! I'm sure it is😊! To sum up: Honestly, just keep going😌.
Oh and one more thing! Can I ask where you're from 🙃? I mean, is English your native language or did you just learn it with time? Because you have some not english books, which I can't read, since I don't understand that language, but your English writings are truly incredible. You don't use the one and same word the whole time and you use nice writing ways and and always change the sentence construction so it never gets boring and monotone🙃. Because if it's not

your native language, then it's quite hard to write the way you do! That really is amazing! 😮😮😮😍😍😍

I wish you all the luck in continuing writing and good health🍀🍀🍀

Best wishes

Reply comment January 28, 2022, 19:44 ♡ (/en/dashboard/story/comment/234659/vote/up/)

> **Hazo** @hazo (/en/u/hazo/)
>
> Thanks you so much for such nice words, they make me really happy. It's an incredible bless to see someone enjoying my work this much, I am truly grateful to you.
>
> Yes, english is not my first language, that would be spanish! I have been talking and writing in english since a very long time ago, but I still feel like I have to improve a whole lot, so thanks you again for your kind words!
>
> I'll try to update more frequently and not keep people waiting like before, sorry about that!
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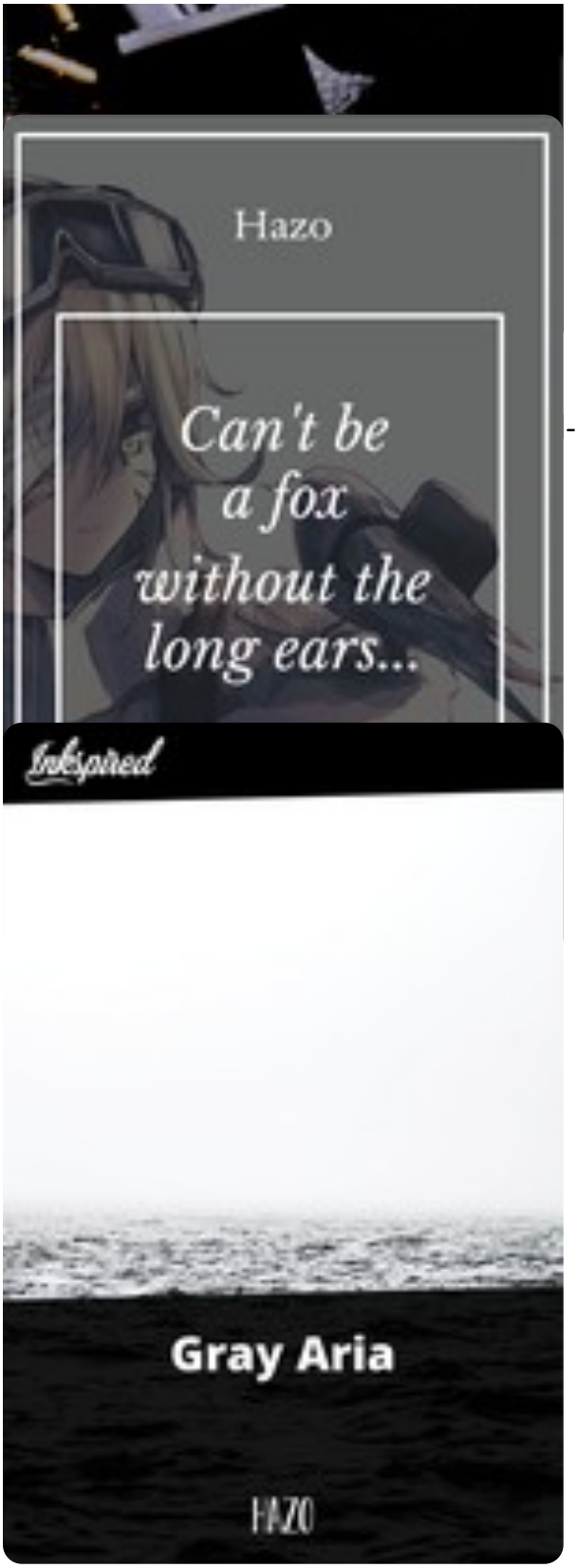

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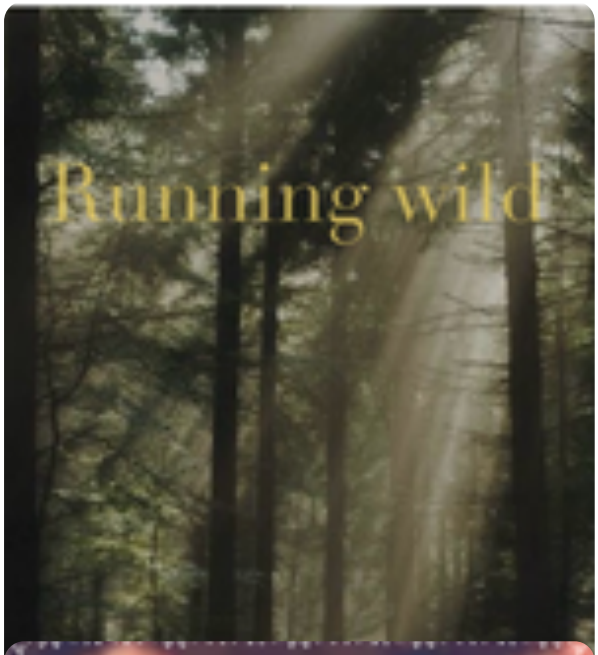

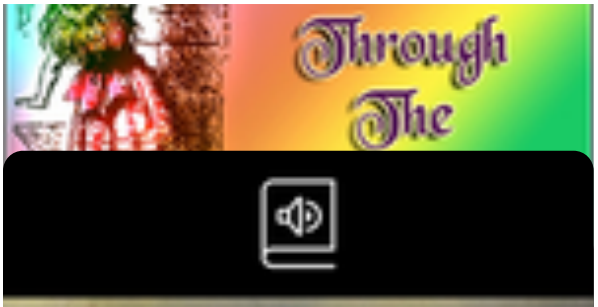
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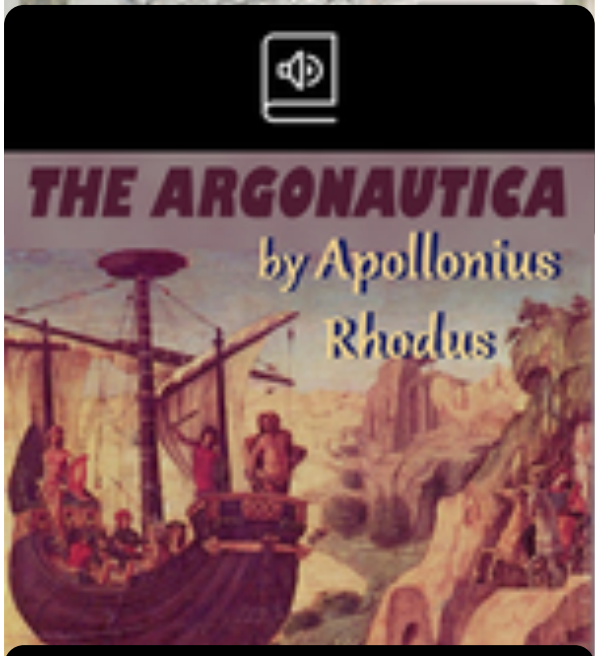
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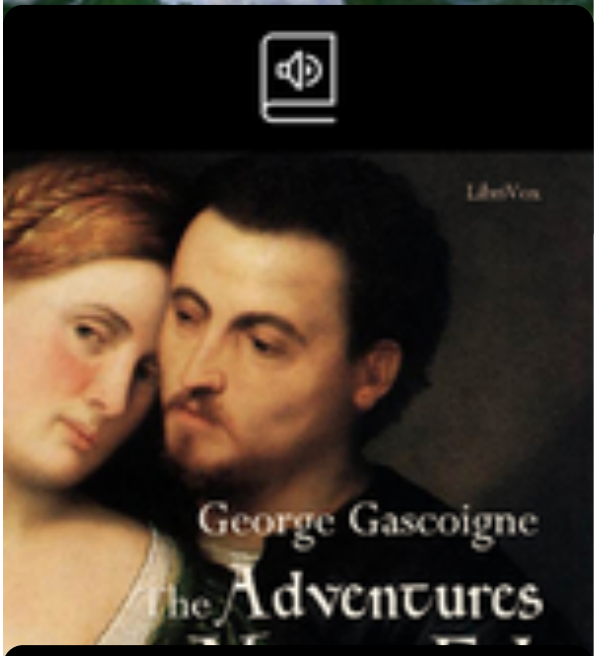
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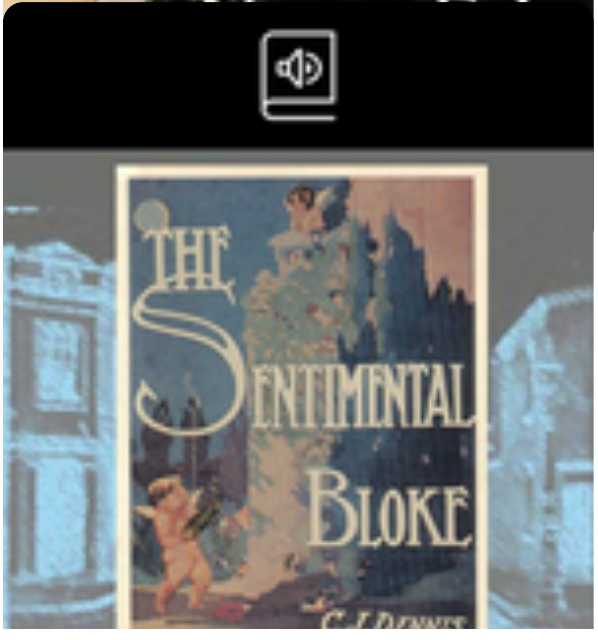
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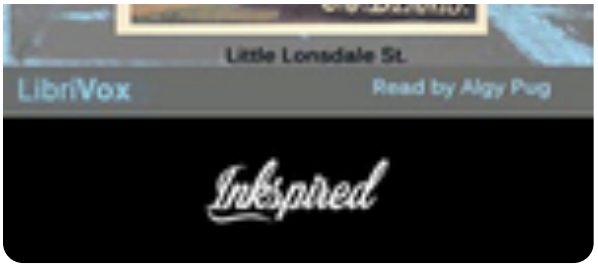

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Take me to your people, and I will make them shine.

The paper bag is empty. She calmly folds it in half a couple of times and walks to the nearest trash can to dispose of it. She's educated, of course, not just some wild fox, despite what her hair could say of her.

"Alright, Mattier. I listened to some good info while I was preparing everything for the Stompers' song. Apparently, the guy ruling on the Winders' side is just a kid. They said his grandpa, the previous leader, disappeared a couple of years ago and now he's in charge of everything. Just a kid! Do you realize? It's going to be so damn easy! We've got this in the bag, little birdy."

"Chirp."

"Yes, I agree. But we can still formulate a plan out of this info. Look, if everything goes as planned, you're inviting me to a nice dinner, alright?".

"Chirp...".

How does she expect the bird to get enough money?

"Alright, we are already in Winders' territory. Things look better around here, don't they? It's at least less obscure, and there are even ambulant vendors everywhere".

"Chirp?".

"Yeah, same thing".

The pair walks calmly through the pedestrian street. It is truly peaceful around the Winters' side. One wouldn't really think an actual cold war was ongoing if one didn't directly ask someone. Because when the fox did...

"I WOULD DESTROY THOSE SAVAGES WITH MY OWN HANDS!"

"KILL! MURDER! OBLITERATION!"

"I AM GOING TO STEAL STUFF FROM THEIR HOUSES!"

"R-right..."

The whole street roars in anger. Some of them even grab what they are selling and they throw it to the ground! There's only rage where the eye can see!

"L-let's leave, Mattier..."

They rightfully took a different street, bought an ice cream cone for each one and decided to wander for a bit. Yes, she's holding both cones while the bird simply pecks on the ice cream.

"Man... I was expecting some kind of reaction, but that animosity... Now I get it's definitely a sensible topic, so we need to approach cautiously and ask for their leader."

"Chirp."

"Yes, but finding someone who looks important is more... important."

Just as she says so, a little argument can be heard finishing some meters ahead of them. An old lady cusses a tough, muscular, big man and then turns around, stomping on the ground as she goes. The big man simply sighs tired and rests his back on the wall.

"Should have expected so..."

"Hey, bulky fella."

That's the fox entrance.

"Hm? Was that for me?"

"Yes it was! Greetings, dog. My name is Laeyd, and this little guy here is Mattier."

"Huh..."

The stacked man with the bulldog ears looks slightly confused, and just follows along.

"Who are you?"

"They call me Pitbull."

But those ears are not-

"Pitbull, okay! You look strong, Pitbull."

"W-well, yes. I am; the higher your rank, the more you should take care of your body."

'Bingo' thinks the fox. If he talks about rank, he must surely be part of Winders' forces. She, not discretely at all, looks up and down at him and smiles brightly.

"You're a Winder, right? Hey, hey, I have something to talk with your leader!"

"Huh... are you an outsider? Yeah, I've never seen you before."

"Yes, I am just a simple traveler."

"The boss is not really making any audiences right now..."

"Oh he can surely make an exception this time, right~?"

"I don't think so, he's quite stubborn."

"Oh I know he will, let's go let's go!"

"No, I won-"

"Heard that, Mattier? Big Dog is taking us to his boss."

"I-"

"And it's all because he wouldn't tell no to a fine lady like myself! Ri~ght~?"

"..."

"..."

"... agh, fine."

He doesn't look so convinced, but the dog awkwardly accepts and guides the fox. They walked for another fifteen minutes until they found themselves in front of a large corporate building.

"Uh... doesn't this stands out a bit too much here? I mean the rest of the town is quite rustic; this looks straight out of a big city."

"The old boss was a businessman. He said he felt at home in a place like this."

"That's the guy who disappeared, right?"

"Yes, no one has seen the boss in years."

"Huh..."

"It is a sad story. The old boss once told us his father also vanished when he was just a kid. To think the same would happen to him and his grandson..."

"Is it really okay to rely on a kid as your new boss?"

"The old boss told us this kid was going to come before he left, so we all trust the kid. He's a bit inmature, but he's a good boss."

"It all sounds so obscure..."

"Yes, I think it does. But it's what we have."

The dog presents something like a magnetic card in front of the glass door and it slides open.

"This is the most technological place of the town."

"I can see."

The fox and the sparrow kind of ignore the insides of the building, it is not that interesting to see just a regular business building. They are guided to an elevator, but the dog doesn't get in with them.

"Hm? What's wrong?"

"I don't fit into the elevator."

"O-oh, rigtht."

"Yes, it is a bit of a pain, but there's nothing I can do. Anyway, you go to the 9th floor."

"You're gonna walk all the way up there?"

"No... t-the boss said he doesn't want me in his office, because I'm too big and I tend to stumble around and there are many fragile decorations and..."

Both our protagonists look slightly saddened at the dog as he smiles awkwardly and waves them off.

"I'll see you later, I'll be waiting down here."

"Y-yeah..."

And the elevator goes up.

"... such a loyal Pitbull, eh...?"

"Chirp."

"Yeah, that doesn't change the fact that he's dumb enough to let into his boss's office someone he has never seen before. He didn't even check if I had any weapons. Man, dogs are stupid..."

"Chirp... chirp?"

"Nah, only dogs. Never seen a wolf being this stupid."

"Chirp?"

"Cats? Cats..."

The foxy girl stares voidly into the elevator closed doors as she lays her back on the wall, thinking, or maybe recalling. She lets out a disguised sigh and raises her hand to the bird, and so she rubs his head with a finger.

"Cats are fine. I like cats."

The doors open, and then there's a clean hallway in front of them.

"Huh... I mean, these are the looks of

any common city, but it really calls for attention in this kinda town..."

Those are her words when she reaches the end of the hallway and finds some cozy office. It's tidy, properly arranged and there's even a computer in the corner. The walls are of a pure white, and the floor is gray.

"There's really a kid ruling half of the town from this place...?"

"Chirp."

There's nobody to be seen around by the other side of the desk in front of her, but there are footsteps coming from the other side of one of the two doors by the sides of the room so, as if she was in her own house, she drops her backpack on a couch and sighs.

"I suppose we should just wait..."

And right when she grabs her hat with

both hands and takes it off her head, one of the door opens. She turns to see, eye slightly open and the hat on her chest.

"Oh, that must be it."

There's a kid standing at the door. Golden eyes, short, black hair correctly combed to the right, a red tie over his white shirt... and a very faintly dumbfounded look. He stares at the fox. He hasn't even noticed the sparrow on her shoulder yet.

"So..."

She speaks first, tilting her head at the kid's confused gaze.

"Are you the Winders' boss?"

A slow nod comes as a response, and the fox pouts a bit.

"Hm? Can't you talk?"

"A-ah, yes. I can. I am Merid, the boss of this side of the town."

"Oh, you talk so politely, truly a tiny gentleman!"

Laeyd is always so carefree, and so she smiles brightly at the little guy.

"You're not as much as a kid as I expected. In fact, I don't even think we're that far from each other. How old are you?"

"Shouldn't... we exchange names before ages?"

"Oh, who really cares? I'm seventeen."

"I'm fourteen."

"Chirp..."

"Yeah, so young. It must be rough being leader at such young age."

"S-somewhat... A-anyway! Who even are you? I told Pit I didn't want anyone bothering me today. I have stuff to do

and-"

"And?"

"A-and..."

She skips to him until they are barely a meter away, with her head still slightly tilted and the bird standing a top of her head.

"I'm sure you have a couple of minutes to listen to a girl with a plan and good intentions, right?"

The boy blushes deeply. Not only he's not used to people being so close to him, but talking to him like that... and, to worsen things, it's actually a girl! A girl slightly older than him, but only a bit taller, she's blonde, the bandages on her face are strange, but she has a cute tail. And he doesn't reply, he simply stares intently into her eyes as if trying to find the right words to reject her without making her hate him.

"... right?"

Says the fox.

"... y-yeah, I guess have some spare time..."

No, boy. Don't. Do not fall for her. Get out of there, wonderboy. That woman means trouble.

"Good!"

But the innocent boy is too weak against such a cute smile. And so, seconds after, they are sitting in front of each other on the couches, a tiny table separating them with two cups of coffee HE had to make for them.

"So, first things first. My name is Laeyd, and this ball of feathers here is Mattier."

"Chirp."

"We are mere travelers looking for

interesting stuff to see. Yet we cannot ignore this town's situation."

"Chirp, chirp..."

"Well... as I told you, I am Merid. I am the Winders' boss, and the legitimate ruler of the town."

"Not so very legitimate when half of the town preffers a rat over you."

"Th-that is just because those Stompers are savages! Have you been there? They are ugly and uncivilized!"

"I... don't think they are that bad. They did treat me nicely after untying me! Plus, just because you're a pretty boy doesn't mean you can go calling them ugly, that's not good."

"P-pretty-"

"Chirp, chirp."

"Yeah, yeah. Instead of going on speaking ill about them, why don't you listen to what we have to say?"

"It will depend on how serious you are about whatever you are here to talk about."

"Rest easy, young lad. We are here to

solve your problems! So, we have been here only for a couple of days, we are resting at an old lady's place. And today morning we were awaken by a horrible, indescribable noise! No, it was a mix of hundreds of noises. A mix of hundreds of instruments being mistreated without a real purpose!"

"..."

"And then we found the truth, those who were sucking so terribly... were the Winders!"

"...!!"

"Yes! The Stompers' side was mildly but noticeably better, I'm afraid..."

"Ugh..."

Yes.

The fox is orchestrating exactly what you think she is. She has also already realized the little man's weaknesses, and she will exploit them all to her own benefit. She is just about to manipulate his whole forces by taking advantage of the boy's

innocence. You will not stop me anymore from saying the fox is just straight evil.

"B-but, wait a minute! How are you so sure the Winders were the terrible ones? They were all playing at the same time!"

"Youngling..."

She is just three years older.

"Trained ears like mine can easily discerne where each noise is coming from. Plus, have you never heard how foxes have a better developed hearing than humans?"

"..."

The kid cocks an eyebrow, tilts his head a bit as to peek at the side of her head... yeah, kid, there are no long ears there.

"Right..."

"Right! So just keep that tiny mouth shut and let me tell you my plan!"

"Wait."

"Daaah! What now?"

"Chirp."

"Why do you want to help us? We haven't asked for your help, and we don't have anything a traveler could find useful to give you as payment, except maybe money."

"Oh, don't you worry about that. I have more than enough money to live. But... hm... I won't lie and say I'm doing this out of being a pure, good-hearted fox..."

She takes her tail to her lap and starts patting her. That soft, comfy looking tail also serves as pillow for the sparrow, who jumps down from her head and sits on the tail, still staring deeply at the boss.

"I was expecting to get some info. You know, we are just aimless wanderers coming from the north, and we have no idea what to expect south from here. So, if you were kind enough..."

When did the fox's voice get so soft? Why is she smiling like that as she tilts her head? Why is she closing an eye?!

Why is Merid falling for such a charmless, mischevious fox?!

"I-I see. S-so all you want is information... yes, I think we can share that..."

Grin.

While the boss struggles to remain calm and collected in front of a guest, the fox just grins. If he was able to, the sparrow would be grinning too.

"Oh but we can discuss about that later! Now let me cut straight to the point."

"Ah, yes. Please do."

"You see, this fox right here is an EXPERT in all kinds of music."

That's exaggerating quite a bit.

"And I can't let this insult to good music keep happening. So, I'm going to intervene, and teach your boys a thing or two about how to properly read a music sheet. I could see they know the basics of how to play their instruments, so that's not the main issue here. Aaaaand the best part is, I have already prepared a melody in advance!"

And she takes out that folded paper she wrote back at the Stompers' base.

"I just need a couple of hours and your boys will hold the best concert this magnificent town has ever heard!"

"Hm... it sounds..."

Doubtful, he looks around, as if hoping the multiple pictures on the walls tell him what to do. He scratches his chin, he closes his eyes, he opens them again and gazes towards the desk... and then he nods, staring back into the fox's eye.

"Alright, I'll leave it to you."

"Really?!"

She jumps from her seat and over the table, kneeling in front of him as she grabs her hands and the bird flies atop of her head again.

"You will not regret this decision!"

The boy just stares back into her eyes in voidly awe... and then the blood rushes up to his face. But he doesn't panic, he simply gulps as if that was enough to shake off the red on his face and then nods, not able to say a word or move an inch more.

This was not a coincidence. This is not coincidence at all, the fox is devilishly laughing in her head, holding her stomach, knowing the boss is right in the palm of her hand.

She lets go of him and stands up bending her torso and patting her knees, getting her face dangerously close to his,

showing off that adorable smile - the only thing about her that's actually adorable.

"Well, now..."

A step aside, and a skillful turn on her feet just to make her not-so-long hair wave around as she faces him.

"Take me to your people, and I will make them shine."

Ah... strangely enough, such words came out in a more mature fashion, with a calm smile and a less smugly voice.

. . .

"Chirp. Chirp, chirp; chirp."

"Yes, that went smoothly. And I don't think you should worry, Mattier. That practice went just fine. Better than the one in the morning with the other guys. These learned way faster."

"Chirp..."

"Yes, they are ready."

"Chirp?"

"I know, but I will have everything ready for tomorrow."

"Chirp?!"

"Hm? Yes, tomorrow. Didn't you listen? I told the same to Tall, the concert will be held tomorrow, for both parties. Well, they won't see it as a concert precisely, but that's not important."

It's already night. The last orange-tainted sunrays are disappearing in the distance and the fox's boots stop making noise as she stands before the central plaza.

"So... I told them both they should stand by their respective sides of the plaza by tomorrow morning. I will stand... around there, right in the center. Huh... yeah, they are probably not going to take it lightly when they see each other face to face like

that, but... oh, let's just have faith."

"Seems like you have been busy."

A deer is standing behind her.

"Oh, Ryzudina."

"Chirp."

"Urdizina."

"I got a bit worried that you hadn't come back so I decided to go look for you, yet here you are the moment I step out."

"Haha~ sorry about that, took a bit longer than expected."

"What have you been doing today?"

"Well..."

Laeyd shrugs as she looks to a side and the bird on her shoulder does the same to the opposite side.

"Just trust me, things are going to get better starting tomrrow."

"Hm...?"

"Chirp."

"If you say so... just try not to get in trouble, alright? Now come inside, I'll make dinner."

"Yes ma'am!"

There she goes.

Look at her smiling childishly like an adorable little prankster as the door closes behind her. What a devil. What a fox.

I know what I said before, but I... yeah, I still might want to defend her... somehow. Oh but ignore me, just ignore me. Make your own assumptions. In the end, I'm nothing but a narrator.

June 10, 2022, 5:58 p.m. 1 comments

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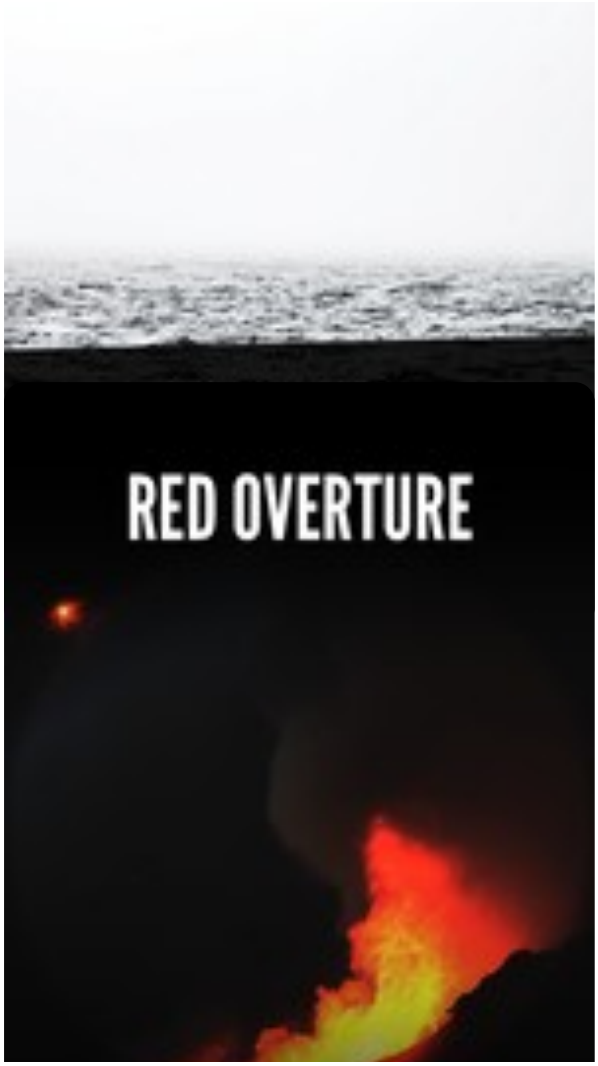

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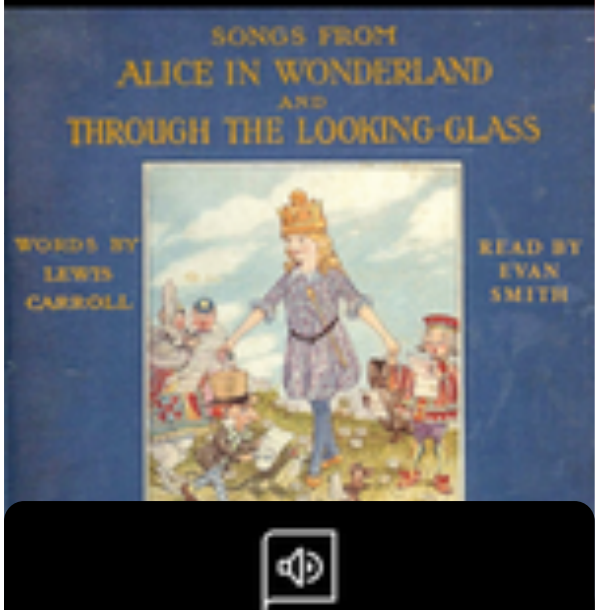
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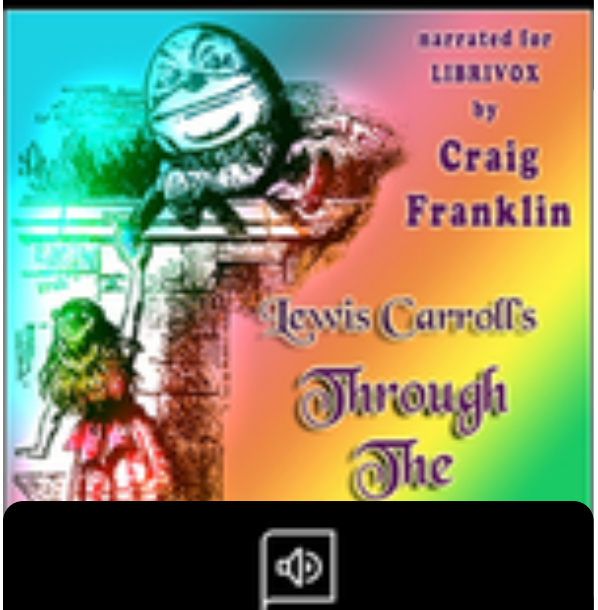
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I'll tell ya, there's more to a fox than just a pair of long ears!

The day has finally come.

Or that's at least what the fox said as soon as she woke up, very early in the morning.

She had the quickest breakfast, then a

shower, and then she stormed out of the deer's restaurant.

She's actually nowhere to be seen now.

Only the bird is there, standing on top of the fountain in the center of the plaza.

'Stay here and don't let anyone take over the place, Mattier! I'll be right back!' she said. That was around an hour ago.

The bird looks up at the sky and then lets out a sound quite similar to a sigh, probably carrying the same meaning too. It was 7AM when she left by herself, looking for god-knows-what. The bird had seen people come and go, but clearly no one was planning to 'take over' the plaza. Just who would do something like that? She had the only two guilds in the whole town in the palm of each one of her hands and so, Mattier was just bored. He would have certainly preffered to follow her wherever she needed to go.

"Chirp..."

But just when the little sparrow thought

it was a good idea to take a nap until his friend came back, the noises of hundred of steps made his feathers perk up.

"...?"

There was the fox coming, all triumphant and proud, followed by dozens of men carrying some heavy stuff. Men from many different races. There are elves, there are a lot of humans, a couple of lizardmen too...

The bird could only watch...

"Alright, place the wooden platforms behind the fountain. No, not there. Yes, just there. Make... something like a staircase with them... just make sure it ends up being really tall! I should be able to watch over the whole area from the top!"

The sparrow left his post and flied right onto the shoulder of Laeyd.

"Oh hey, Mattier! You see this? These guys I hired are gonna get the whole place ready for the big concert! Don't worry, they are neutral!"

She giggles cutely at the bird and sits on the edge of the fountain, dangling her legs looking certainly excited about what's to come.

"Ah... finally, all this damn mess is going to end. Well, that's what I'd like to think, anyway. There's a big chance this is not going to end the way I want it to. What do you think, Mattier? Am I being too optimistic? I know I'm hoping for some fairytalelike ending, but I really think I can pull it off this time. I think I did everything fine, I didn't make any enemies, and there's no one to hate me, at least in this city..."

"Chirp..."

"Hey, Mattier..."

"Chr?"

"What do you think he would say about this?"

"Chirp..."

"Yeah... yeah, that was a dumb question. I-I mean it was so long ago you weren't even born the last time I saw him."

"... chirp... chirp, chirp."

"Yeah? Only based on what I have told you about him?"

"Chirp."

"... haha, maybe one day we'll get to know."

"Chirp!"

"Yes! I'll tell him everything! All about our travels and-!"

The noise of a metal pipe bouncing on the ground called for the fox attention, at which she jumped up in order to go and yell at the careless worker.

Everything was working as intended. Before they could realize, a tall platform had been set in the middle of the plaza.

The workers could see the agile fox jumping skillfully to the top, where she was handed a microphone and a bottle of water.

"And now... all we have to do is wait..."

The workers leave soon enough after placing big speakers all around the place, and she waves goodbye to all of them. Apparently she had already paid them their fair share. Once all of them are gone, the fox's gesture turns a bit darker.

"... please, let it work just fine..."

She wears on her smile once she can see the sparrow come to her and lay on top of her hat.

"Chirp."

"I agree."

A couple of hours pass by, the few

clouds up on the sky dance from east to west as the fox watches. She asks herself if the wind is really that strong up there. She also asks the sparrow, but he says he has never really flied that high, so he can't really know. She doesn't feel too comfortable with that answer; he's a bird, all bird should be able to go as high as they please, even grazing the sun without getting burnt. That what she wants to do, to fly wherever she wants, far from home and close to the nothingness, meeting new people, new places and new feelings.

No one will stop her. She wouldn't let anyone do it, she loves and embraces her freedom, her forcefully gained freedom that allowed her to be finally happy.

She knows herself too well, she knows about her own perks and weaknesses, and her good and bad sides too, and she's happy with those, since that's was being oneself truly means. At least for her.

A voice takes her down to the earth, and she glances below the platform to find an elf looking up at her. Laeyd's gesture looks

as calm as lazy, and the smile on her face shows a faint shade of pure bliss.

"We are all ready here, Laeyd."

She blinks and greets Ponit with that cheeky smirk of hers, pointing to the left side of the plaza.

"My friends the Stompers are here! Good, good! Just in time, now please place yourself in your positions... by that side of the town center; your side. Are you ready guys? Have you practiced as I instructed you? I'll take no halfwit performances, you hear me?"

"Of course the guys practiced, and they did it so much they are not that well slept. Unlike myself, they at least trust you that much."

"Great! You should learn a bit from them, point-eared-ponit."

"Huh?! In the end you're nothing but a b-"

"I, too, have confidence in Layed's plan."

The old throat of the Tall, the mouse, interrupts Ponit's phrase. The tiny animal jumps out of the pocket and stands atop the elf's shoulder.

"Moreso, if this really accounts for a definitive victory from the Stompers, we will be in forever debt with Layed, and so I asume she's the most interested in the success of her own idea."

"Yes! Ah, I really like that mouse~ anyway, get on your side. Mattier, can you take a peek to the other side?"

The Stompers set themselves up as indicated. Line after line of humans, beasts, lizards and even some demons holding all kinds of musical instruments, ready and willing to tumble down their opponents once and for all, giving no chance of retaliation: the definitive strike that will forever put an end to an unending war.

"Chirp!"

The bird comes back and yells in the fox's human ear.

"It's time..."

But the good mood and winning stance of most Stompers' member slowly fades off as some people gathers at the other side of the plaza. They are strong-looking too, and they all hold instruments, just as them. They form a line, and then another, and then another, and no one dares to speak a word, not even Laeyd. From between two buffed bear-eared bodyguards, a little boy walks out and looks up at the fox standing on top of that five-meters-tall platform.

"T-the Winders are ready, Laeyd. But..."

Merid's voice breaks the silence, and he gazes down to the elf and the mouse just

some steps away from him.

"Laeyd, what is..."

"What is the meaning of this, fox?!"

The elf snaps and yells at the mastermind, followed by the jeer, insults and threatening of all the Stompers. They have realized they were cheated on, and even some of them drop their instrument to pull out their weapons.

She, however, remains calm, looking down at the raged guild and then at the bosses of both sides.

"Laeyd, I would certainly appreciate an explanation."

The only other person that looks as calm as her is Tall.

"Right now... this is what you both wanted! A chance, right?! A chance to prove you are the best! Both of you! But

you could have never done so without my guide! And so please-!"

Clanck.

Laeyd stops talking when she hears and sees a small but heavy looking knife being throw right at her feet, almost touching her right foot and stabbing the platform. She goes a bit pale and looks at the Winders' side as if trying to see who threw that. They start booing, yelling and getting ready to fight too. The tension is at its maximum point, and both bosses just gaze at the crowds knowing they will not be able to stop such conmotion.

"H-hey..."

A drop of sweat runs down from the fox's cheek, and she and the bird look at each other with a worried face, unsure of how to procede.

"I-I didn't... please, just let me speak and..."

Merid takes a hand to his chin and groans quietly.

"I... we have to get out of here. There's no stopping them now, a fight is going to break out any second now, and we have no chance of survival here in the middle."

"No! Wait!"

As Laeyd lifts her voice, the crowds scream even louder, she will definitely not be heard by them anymore, not even through the microphone.

A battle is about to begin, and as agile as she is there is just no way to flee unarmed from the scene, much less if she's the one being targeted.

Her lips tremble, her throat feels packed, and just when she's about to jump off and try to escape, a single, acute and loud knock noise roars through the air. It's such an imponent sound that everyone goes instantly quiet, as if they recognize its origin. The significance of such event

almost makes one feel as if the very knock made the wind go quiet too.

"Ah!"

"That is..."

Merid and Tall both look at the building behind Laeyd. A simple restaurant with nothing relevant to note, except for the old woman standing at the door, with a broom on her right hand and the wooden end of it on the ground, being the origin of the silently deafening noise.

"Urdizina?!"

The fox snaps back to reality as the deer lady gazes up at her with a neutral expresion.

"I don't know what you're trying to pull out here, youngling. But you better get ready to face the consequences of your own actions."

No one dares to speak a word in front of the deer lady. Not even the old mouse, or the combative elf.

"Y-yes! Of course! I'm sure of what I want to do!"

"Well then..."

The owner of the restaurant in the neutral zone of the town gazes slowly at both sides.

"Then I'm positive all of us will listen to this vixen and follow her instructions. Is that right?"

And then she looks at the heads of each guild.

"Is that right, Merid and Tall?"

"Y-yes."

"Absolutely, Urdizina."

"Wonderful. Laeyd, go on. The floor is

yours."

Standing in awe at the mysterious display of power of the deer layd, she nods just once and talks to the microphone, taking out a short wooden stick from inside her jacket.

"A-alright, everyone! Just as we practiced! All you have to do is follow my pace..."

"... chirp."

"Y-yes, here goes nothing..."

She raises her stick up in the air, and quickly moves it down, allowing the concert to start.

Her plan is innocent, and certainly fairytalelike, but she's completely confident in it. Maybe this is because she's also nothing but an innocent girl under that cheeky attitude and her bias to get herself in trouble.

But she thinks she did fine.

As she moves the stick to a side, the Winders play a note on their guitars, while the Stompers make their trumpets cry; moving it to the other side and the Stompers hit their drums as some Winders blow their harmonicas.

And so, with every hit on the tempo, both guilds complement each other's sound, making it impossible for one to feel complete without the other.

Her idea was not to make them both play the same tune but strengthened by the amount of instruments, but to teach each one a certain part of the same song, a song they could only fully play if they get along and choose not to fight each other, even if for just a couple of minutes.

The nervousness in the fox's eye slowly vanishes, and a content smile is born amidst the armonious show. She's doing nothing but waving a stick, yet the results of her teachings on the men and women of each side shows off by themselves.

As for the bystanders, all of them look in awe. This is not the usual chaos they listen

to every week. This is a proper, beautiful and well thought play that all of them can enjoy. Ponit stays the same as always, Tall nods wisely and Merid watches impressed as the kid he is, and the three of them move to the side of Urdizina. As for the deer lady, she smiles up proudly at the vixen on top of the platform, who waves her tail at the same tempo she waves the stick.

A solid five minutes go by until the last cry of the trumpets puts an end to the song.

Laeyd gazes down at every single citizen before she turns around to face the very same people he lied to and yells.

"I told ya I'd pull it off!"

With such warcry, and a glorious chirp from the bird on top of her head, she raises her arms and all the musicians behind her cheer in unison.

The mouse claps calmly, just as the deer.

"Astounding."

"So this was your plan all along, Laeyd? You really are a fox, aren't you?"

"What?"

Without even making a noise, she jumps off the platform and stands in front of them all with her hands inside her pockets.

"Did ya doubt it?! I'll tell ya, there's more to a fox than just a pair of long ears!"

"Now you should tell me how should I make all those men stay each one in their respective guild."

"Y-yeah I don't think... I don't think they'll want to play alone again after this..."

The bosses acknowledge their defeat, and Laeyd simply laughs, but Urdizina intervenes with the same calm face she once met Laeyd with.

"I don't know if this will be enough to make all the stupid figthing stop, but it will surely calm things down a lot."

"Yes, that is for sure."

"Yeah, we... we could maybe think of making a truce of sorts..."

"We'll have an audience next month." The mouse states. "We will decide what to do then. For now, every hostility from the Stompers against the Winders is strictly forbidden, until we solve this matter at least. Is that fine for you, young Merid?"

"Yeah, it is. I'll also call for a cease in any hostility coming from our side. Is Laeyd also coming to the audience?"

"Of course she is, she caused all of this after all."

"Of course I'm not."

Everyone cocks an eyebrow at the fox.

"I'm just a traveler, nothing else. And I think I've already done enough here, I'll be taking my leave very soon."

"Hm... yes, as it should be."

The deer settles the matter with her words, and the sparrow chirps proudly one last time.

. . .

"Are you not even staying here for the night, Laeyd?"

"Nah, I'm fine. I did everything I wanted to do here. I hope I helped fixed a couple things, even if just for a short while."

"I will not let your efforts go to waste, don't worry. If negotiations runs fine, this town is about to get as peaceful as it has never been."

"I'm glad, old lady. Hm!"

And she carries her bag on her back, fixing the strap along her chest.

"Well then, I'm leaving. I'll come back

someday, you better still be around here by then, deer!"

"Haha~ I'll surely be here, fox. Have care."

"Goodbye!"

Waving goodbye to that old lady she'll maybe never see again, Laeyd walks out to the dark streets of the town at night, quickly leaving it behind as she heads for the road in the north.

Looking up at the moon above her head, she hums the song she composed for the guilds, happily.

"Ah... man, I can't believe it worked so well."

"Chirp."

"Do you think things will get better for them? I thought it would be as easy as making them play the song, but it seems a lot of negotiations are still needed."

"Chirp, chirp."

"Well, yes, there's surely a lot of conflicts

between them I'm not aware of, but I'll leave that to them. I... I already did my part. In fact, I think I did more than enough! If they don't settle their differences after this, well then they're just unfixable."

"Chirp?"

"It's not that, I just mean I wouldn't put much more of myself to solve a helpless issue. If I'm putting myself on the line, at least I want to know it's worth for something, you know? Jeez, I'm not asking them to hold their hands like best friends or something, I'd just feel alright if they stopped being at each other's throats."

"Chirp..."

And the fox leaves the town, leaving behind the trace of a good action that, unknown to her, will inmensely benefit the lives of everyone living in that place. She did something good. She helped a lot of people.

Do you get it now? Do you get what I meant straight from the beginning? Foxes

are not evil, they are just tricky, wise and sneaky. But this one, this one is a good hearted fox.

"... chirp?"

"Oh, what are we going to do next?"

"Chirp."

"Well the last part of the plan, of course!"

Hm...

"Chirp!"

"Yes! We're going to the next town to sell info about how it's now safe to visit that town! I'm sure a lot of merchants will pay quite good for being the first ones to get the sell their products there! Haha~! We're gonna be making a lot of money! And we could sell the same info to the following town too, and the next one too! And so on until the rumor is too strong and it's no news anymore! One way or another, we'll be the ones most benefited

from it. So let us go~!"

I take back my silly words.

What a vixen.

Fin.

Sept. 29, 2022, 4:11 p.m. 2 comments

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The End

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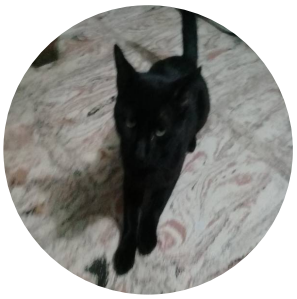

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A big fan of angels.

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Fatima Said @blossoms (/en/u/blossoms/)

The ending pf this chapter couldn't be better!😂👍

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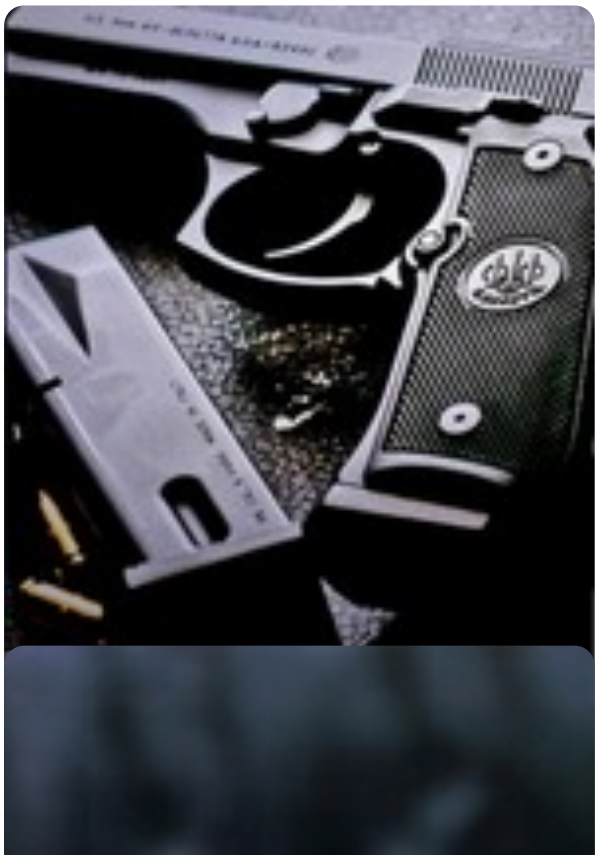

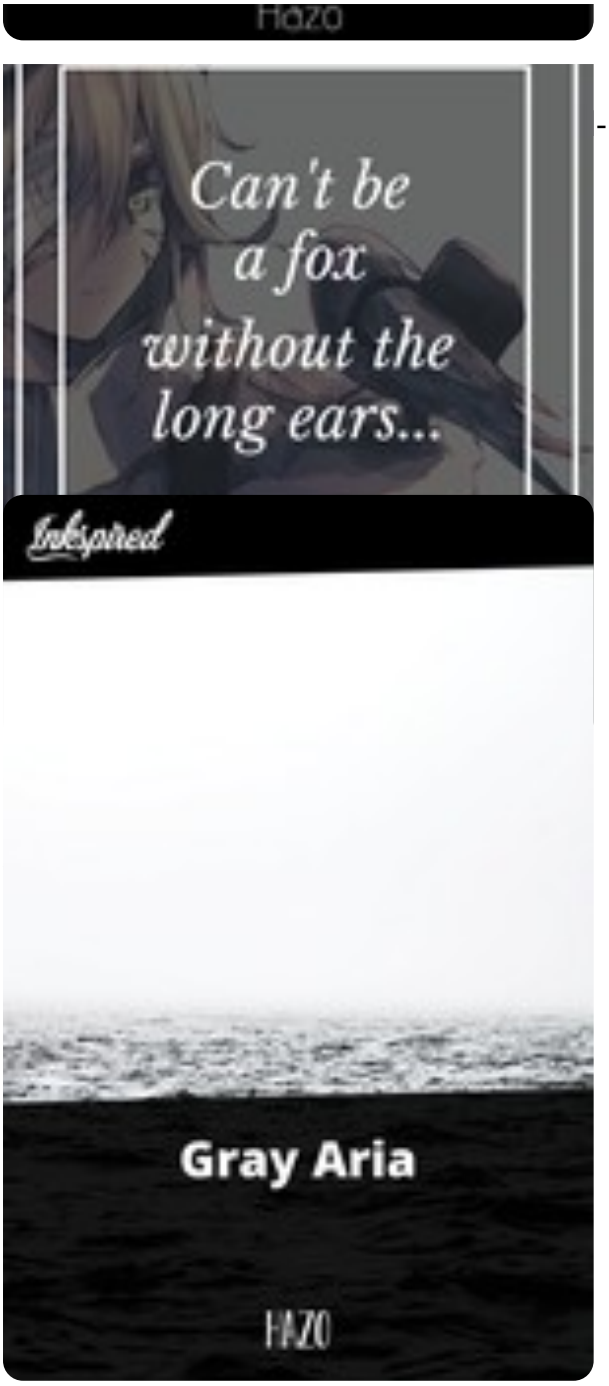

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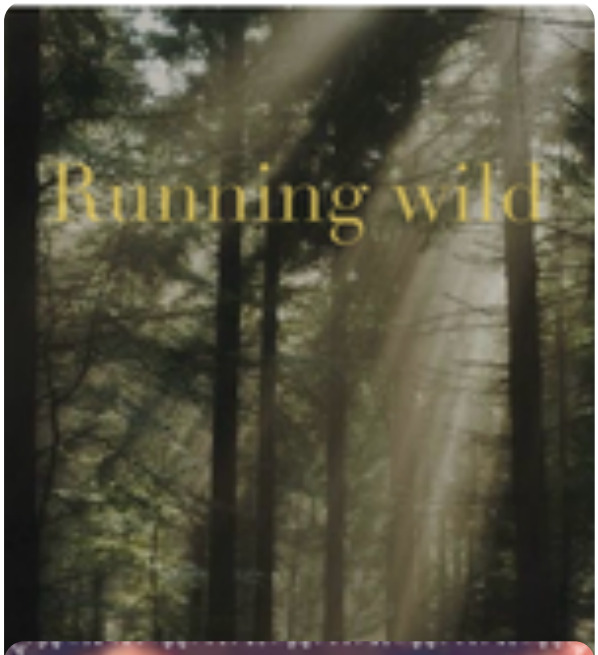

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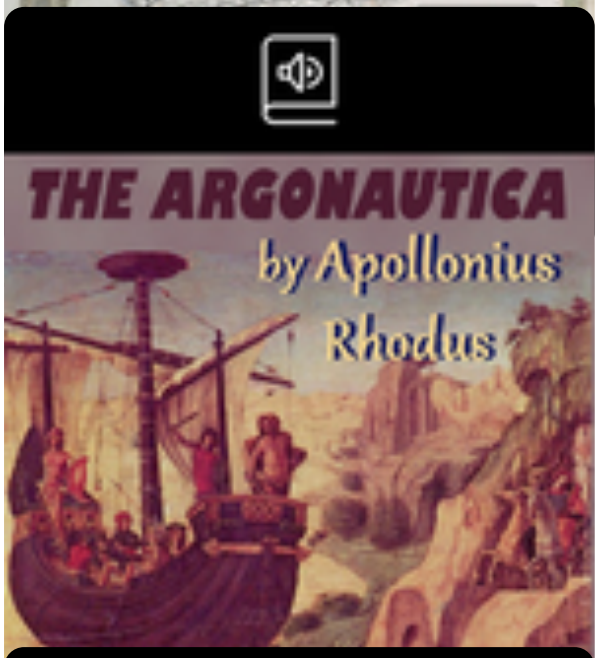
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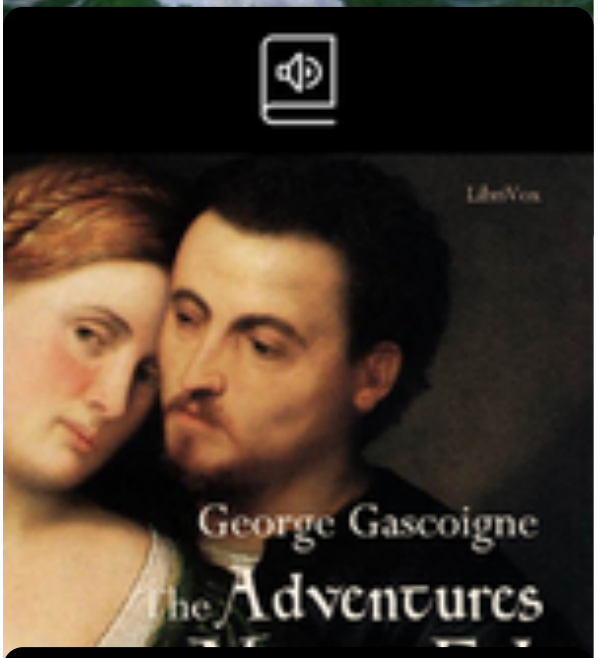
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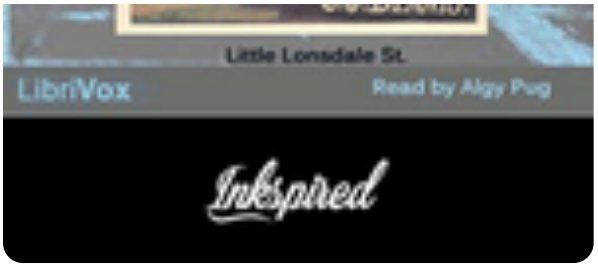

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